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Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Of particular note during this reporting period is the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (13 to 24 May 2002) and the submission of the first report of the newly appointed Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to promote inter-agency cooperation through collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Labour Organization within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People through such initiatives as the workshop on indigenous peoples, private sector natural resource, energy and mining companies and human rights, which was held at Geneva from 5 to 7 December 2001. Ongoing programmes of the Office include the establishment of an indigenous media network; the third workshop on Multiculturalism in Africa (Gaborone, Botswana, 18 to 22 February 2002); indigenous-led human rights training (Sabah, Malaysia, 24 February to 1 March 2002); indigenous aspects of technical cooperation programmes in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico; and the Indigenous Fellowship Programme.

* A/57/150.

** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, paragraph 8, this document has been submitted late so as to include the most up-to-date information possible.

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1. In its resolution 56/140 of 19 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, through the Secretary-General, a report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The present report contains a summary of the activities relating to indigenous peoples undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner between the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (A/56/206) and July 2002.

Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples

2. The seventh session of the open-ended intersessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was held at Geneva from 28 January to 8 February 2002. An informal debate on participation and procedures, collective rights, and land and natural resources took place, as well as informal discussions of articles 13, 6, 9, 7 and 10. The report of the Working Group is contained in document E/CN.4/2002/98, and a compilation of amendments proposed by some States for future discussion appears in annex I to the report. The eighth session of the Working Group will take place at Geneva from 2 to 13 December 2002.

Commission on Human Rights

3. The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty-eighth session from 18 March to 26 April 2002. The Commission considered the report of the Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (E/CN.4/2002/98), the report on the activities undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/2002/96) and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Rodolfo Stavenhagen (E/CN.4/2002/97 and Add.1). The Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on the Working Group on the draft declaration (resolution 2002/64); a resolution on the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (resolution 2002/63); and a resolution on human rights and indigenous issues (resolution 2002/65), all of 25 April 2002.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

4. The first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was held at United Nations Headquarters from 13 to 24 May 2002. Approximately 900 persons attended the Permanent Forum, the majority representing indigenous organizations. The agenda included general statements; a review of activities of the United Nations system: an interactive discussion; and future work of the Forum. The report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its first session is contained in document E/2002/43 (Part II)-E/CN.19/2002/3 (Part II).

Voices: an exhibition celebrating indigenous cultures

5. In view of the historic inaugural session of the Permanent Forum at United Nations Headquarters, the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, supported the exhibition "Voices", which included examples of indigenous art and culture and presentations of weaving, painting and music. The exhibition, held in the lobby of the United Nations building, was opened by the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights and attended by the Secretary-General. The exhibition was shown at the World Civil Society Forum in July and at the Palais des Nations at Geneva as part of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

Indigenous Media Network

6. In order to help indigenous media to cover the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights provided assistance to four indigenous journalists so that they could report on the event to indigenous peoples and to their own communities. The Office, in cooperation with a non-governmental organization, the Advocacy Project, supported the establishment by the participating journalists of an indigenous media network and independent web page (http://www.indigenousmedia.org). The project is part of the efforts undertaken by the Office through workshops and travel assistance to indigenous media representatives to strengthen indigenous media in the framework of the International Decade.

Workshop on indigenous peoples, private sector natural resource, energy and mining companies, and human rights

7. The workshop on indigenous peoples, private sector natural resource, energy and mining companies and human rights was held at Geneva from 5 to 7 December 2001. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized the workshop in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Labour Organization within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The workshop provided an opportunity for reviewing issues relating to indigenous peoples, private sector natural resource, energy and mining companies and human rights, including existing international legal frameworks, as well as for examining in greater detail experiences in relation to consultation practices with indigenous communities prior, during and following the development of private sector projects; benefit sharing by indigenous communities in private sector activities; and dispute resolution. The report of the workshop is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/3.

Workshop on Multiculturalism in Africa: Peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples

8. The third Workshop on Multiculturalism in Africa was held at Gaborone, Botswana, from 18 to 22 February 2002. It was organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the chairpersons of the Working Group on Minorities and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; the Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA-Botswana); and DITSHWANELO, the Botswana Centre for Human Rights, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) of Botswana. The workshop was organized around three distinct activities: (a) a two-day training session for participants representing indigenous peoples and minorities on United Nations human rights mechanisms and the African system for the protection of human and peoples' rights; (b) a two-day seminar on multiculturalism in Africa, focusing on the participation of indigenous peoples and minorities in development, traditional methods of conflict prevention and resolution, and considering the concepts of "minorities" and "indigenous peoples" in the African context; and (c) a one-day round table led by the UNDP resident representative with the participation of the country offices of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies. The report of the workshop is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/4.

Indigenous-led human rights training

9. As part of a pilot programme to support indigenous-initiated and indigenous-led human rights training, the Office provided a small grant to Partners for Community Organizations (PACOS) to organize a human rights training activity in Sabah, Malaysia. The training workshop, organized by PACOS in cooperation with the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact and the Indigenous Peoples' Network of Malaysia (JOAS), was held in Poring Hot Spring, Sabah, Malaysia from 24 February to 1 March 2002. There were about 40 community leaders and others from Sarawak, peninsular Malaysia and Sabah participating in the workshop, which was conducted in Malay. The Office provided a resource person to support the activity. An evaluation report on the workshop submitted by the organizer, Partners for Community Organizations, is available for consultation at the Office of the High Commissioner. In the light of the success of the pilot project, the Office will look at ways of further developing its cooperation with indigenous organizations to promote community-based human rights training.

Indigenous Fellowship Programme

10. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme, now in its sixth year, is implemented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and supported through the regular budget of the United Nations. The 2002 programme started on 15 April and will end on 15 September 2002. The programme includes intensive and comprehensive training in human rights with United Nations experts and resource persons drawn from the staff of the Office. It also provides an opportunity for the fellows to gain practical experience at United Nations meetings, including the treaty bodies, and learn about the technical cooperation activities of the Office. In addition

to human rights-related activities, the Office also organizes study visits to several Geneva-based United Nations agencies, including the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization as well as to several non-governmental organizations. In 2002, the fellows spent two weeks at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris and also participated in the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held in New York from 13 to 24 May 2002. While in New York, the fellows were briefed by staff of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme gives indigenous individuals the opportunity to gain experience in human rights and the United Nations system and to serve as resource persons in their communities when they return.

11. The indigenous persons participating in the 2002 programme are Nicole Hetu (Canada), Franklin Almoza (Philippines), Jimai Montiel (Venezuela), Adam Kuleit (Tanzania) and Aivana Enmynkauo (Russian Federation).

12. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme includes a complementary training component for indigenous people from Latin America who do not speak English, organized in cooperation with the Pedro Arrupe Institute for Human Rights at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain. The four-month training component for Spanish-speaking indigenous persons is now in its third year. The programme provides human rights training at the Institute and practical experience with the Office at Geneva. The five indigenous persons participating in the Deusto programme in 2002 are Maria Cristina Huenchuleo (Chile), Monica Patricia Chuji (Ecuador), Daniel Domingo López (Guatemala), Odilón Candía (Peru) and Andrea Coñuecar (Chile).

Working Group on Indigenous Populations

13. The principal theme of the twentieth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, held from 22 to 26 July 2002, was "Indigenous peoples and their right to development, including participation in development affecting them". A special theme for the session was "The Working Group and indigenous peoples: achievements in the United Nations system and a vision for the future". The agenda also included the following items: a review of developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, including land issues, education and health; standard-setting activities; and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, including information relating to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the report of the Advisory Group. The report of the Working Group on its twentieth session is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/24.

Technical Cooperation Programme

14. The Office of the High Commissioner continues to integrate indigenous issues into the technical cooperation programmes that it administers. At present, technical cooperation projects in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico include specific activities that benefit indigenous people. These activities consist of training

representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and strengthening the capacity of State institutions responsible for the protection of human rights with a specific mandate for indigenous peoples. The project for Guatemala began in September 2001 for a period of nine months and was expected to be extended to cover the remaining months of 2002. The project has four components, one of which focuses on strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

Inter-agency consultation

15. The Office continues to prioritize inter-agency consultation on indigenous peoples in order to promote the objectives of the International Decade. It has shared with the International Labour Organization responsibility for organizing regular annual meetings of organizations in the United Nations system for more than 10 years as a way of providing an opportunity for an informal exchange of information among the staff working on indigenous or related issues. It has proved to be helpful in strengthening cooperation at the working level within the United Nations system. In the light of the decision by the Economic and Social Council to establish the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the High Commissioner called a special meeting of the United Nations system on 23 to 25 January 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to consider how United Nations organizations could prepare for the first session of the Permanent Forum and provide ongoing support. The January meeting was attended by representatives from the Department of Public Information, the International Labour Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. At the meeting it was decided to cooperate with the substantive preparations for and servicing of the Permanent Forum and to establish the Inter-agency Support Group for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In practice the newly created group was able to coordinate contributions of documentation for the Forum and organize side events. The International Labour Organization and the World Bank assisted the Office by servicing the first session of the Permanent Forum through secondment of staff and other support. The next meeting of the Inter-agency Support Group was scheduled for 19 July 2002.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

16. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established by the General Assembly in resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985 to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by providing

them with financial assistance. Funds are obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. The Voluntary Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and other relevant provisions, with the advice of a Board of Trustees appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the current Chairman of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. In resolutions 50/156 of 21 December 1995 and 53/130 of 9 December 1998, the General Assembly extended the mandate of the Voluntary Fund to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended intersessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. The General Assembly further extended the mandate of the Voluntary Fund by its resolution 56/140 of 19 December 2001 by deciding that the Voluntary Fund should also be used to assist indigenous representatives to attend, as observers, the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Voluntary Fund and the activities undertaken with its resources (A/57/296) has been submitted to the General Assembly.

United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

17. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/163, 49/214 and 50/157, the purpose of the Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is to finance projects and programmes during the Decade. The Fund receives contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. In conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157, an Advisory Group was established to assist the Coordinator of the Fund. The current Advisory Group is composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (see A/55/202, para. 4), who are all indigenous experts, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and another United Nations expert who is specialized in project and programme management and appointed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her capacity as Coordinator of the Decade. The most recent reports by the secretariat on the Fund are contained in documents E/CN.4/2002/96 (chap. VII) and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/7. Information on the Fund is also available from the Office's web site, http://www.unhchr.ch, under "Fundraising". Additional information can be obtained from the secretariat of the Fund at the Trust Funds Unit, Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

18. At its seventh session, from 8 to 12 April 2002, the Advisory Group examined 102 applications from indigenous communities and organizations for project grants. The Advisory Group recommended grants amounting to a total of $390,152 to 43 indigenous projects, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General (for the list of projects, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/7, annex III). Funding was also made available for the following activities: the organization of a workshop for indigenous peoples and Governments to be held in conjunction with the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 6 September 2002,

which had been recommended at the sixth session of the Advisory Group and approved by the High Commissioner in April 2001; and a media project to ensure indigenous media participation at the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Table 1
Geographical distribution of grants awarded at the seventh session of the Advisory Group

Geographical area	*Number of project grants awarded*	*Amount in United States dollars*
Africa	15	134 500
America	15	120 455
Asia	10	100 197
Europe	3	35 000
Total	**43**	**390 152**

19. **The following voluntary contributions were received by the Fund from 1 July 2001[1] to 30 June 2002:**[2]

Table 2
Contributions received between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2002

Donors	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Payment registered on*	*Payment received at*	*Number of contribution*
Chile[3]	10 000	07.06.01	Geneva	2nd
Denmark	93 653	01.04.02	Geneva	6th
Estonia	8 330	18.03.02	Geneva	4th
Greece	3 000	16.08.01	Geneva	7th
	6 000	31.10.01	Geneva	
Japan	25 000	31.12.01	Geneva	7th
New Zealand	10 618	29.05.01	Geneva	7th
Norway	56 642	12.03.02	Geneva	6th
Tunisia	1 600	31.12.00	New York	1st

20. **The following pledges remained outstanding as at 30 June 2002:**

Table 3
Outstanding pledges as at 30 June 2001

Donor	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Date pledged*	*Pledged at*
Cyprus	2 000	06.02.02	Geneva
Germany	23 474	05.06.02	Geneva
Movement for Defence of Democracy (Ghana)	200	06.10.00	Geneva

21. **The following chart shows the development in number of grants approved from 1998 to 2002.**

Table 4
Development in number of grants approved from 1998 to 2002

Year (Advisory Group session)	*Admissible applications received*	*Applications (Amounts in United States dollars)*	*Grants approved*	*Amount (United States dollars)*
1998 (3rd)	44	-	13	139 016
1999 (4th)	94	4 161 178	24	232 000
2000 (5th)	58	2 796 688	20	174 955
2001 (6th)	82	3 699 880	30	252 606
2002 (7th)	102	2 814 752	43	390 152

22. The cost plan for 2003 envisages a need for $845,000 for project grants to indigenous organizations and communities, as well as a workshop/seminar on indigenous issues in 2003. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2002/63 of 25 April 2002 (para. 15) and the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/140 (para. 7 [d]), appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so, to contribute to the Fund. Interested donors are invited to pay their contributions before the next session of the Advisory Group (April 2003) in order to enable the Fund, the Advisory Group and the Coordinator of the Decade to fulfil their mandate. Voluntary contributions can be made by bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund" in United States dollars to account 240-C-590-160.1 or in other currencies to account 240-C-590-160.0, c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, Swift address UBSWCHZH12A. Contributions can also be paid by cheque to the order of the "United Nations" and sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Donors should mention, in any case, "For the Fund for Indigenous People Decade, account IV".

Notes

[1] Date of drafting of the previous report.

[2] Date of drafting of the present report.

[3] Although the contributions from Chile, New Zealand and Tunisia that appear in the chart were paid on time, prior to 30 June 2001, they did not appear in the corresponding chart for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/56/206, para. 21). Official receipts for those countries were received at the Office of the High Commissioner after 30 June 2001.